

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#2/a
DMT
5-28-02

Applicant : Franco Castellini
Serial No. : Unknown
Filed : Herewith
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETECTING
BIOFILM IN THE WATER CONDUITS OF
DENTAL UNITS
Attorney Docket : BUG 2 0150

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 10, 13, 16-20, 22, 23, 25, 33-36, and 39 as follows:

6. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the detecting means comprise at least the conduit portion, which is transparent to allow a direct visual check, and feed means for introducing a reagent or coloring fluid connected to, and acting on, the transparent conduit portion.

10. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detecting means comprise optical means located and operating at the transparent conduit portion and designed to emit a light beam before and after the reagent or coloring fluid is introduced so as to reveal a change in the color and/or transparency of the biofilm at least inside the conduit portion.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on Dec 4, 2001, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to addressee" Mailing Label Number EL530576109V5, addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202

Pamela Stepka
Pamela Stepka

10004591 100401
A2